



## **A Visit to a Minneapolis Sawmill**

### **Part 1A: Reading for comprehension**



Ida and Bourne Jerome grew up in Minneapolis. They were seven and eight years old when their father took them to the sawmill in 1917.

Bourne and Ida Jerome  
8 and 7 years old

Read the journal that Ida and Bourne's father wrote for them and then answer the following questions.

- 1. What is a sawmill?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. What is lumber?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. Where did the logs come from and how did they get to Minneapolis?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4. Why were the days of lumbering in Minneapolis almost done in 1917?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5. What is a log boom?**



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Read the journal that Ida and Bourne's father wrote for them and then answer the following questions.

**Note:** Page numbers refer to the 2 sided printed journal. To assemble after printing, fold the pages in half and insert one page inside the other to create the journal.

#### **1. What is a sawmill?**

Answer found on front cover, last sentence.

"A sawmill is a place where logs (trees that have been cut down) are cut into wood pieces called lumber."

#### **2. What is lumber?**

Answer found on front cover, last sentence.

"A sawmill is a place where logs (trees that have been cut down) are cut into wood pieces called lumber."

#### **3. Where did the logs come from and how did they get to Minneapolis?**

Answer found on page 1, lower text box.

"The pines were cut every winter in the vast pine forests far north of Minneapolis."

"The logs were hauled to the brink of the rivers...they floated downstream...until they reached the saw mills of Minneapolis"

#### **4. Why were the days of lumbering in Minneapolis almost done in 1917?**

Answer found on page 2.

"Nearly all of the pine forests have been cut away that were near enough to the Mississippi River..."

#### **6. What is a log boom?**

Answer found on page 3.

"The freely floating logs were held from getting away by a chain of logs. Such a chain of logs is called a boom"



## A Visit to a Minneapolis Sawmill

### Part 1B: Writing (journals, postcards, letters, newspapers)

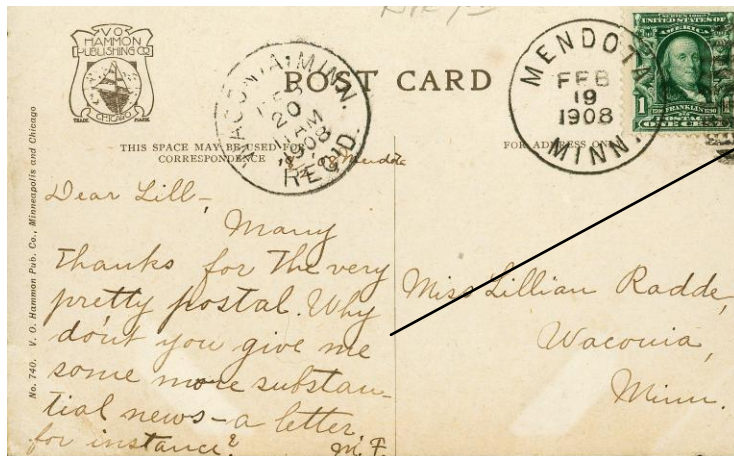
People write for different reasons. Some writing is done to record thoughts and feelings (journals.) Other types of writing share information, either with a friend (postcards and letters.) Some writing informs a community (newspapers.) Using your Journey to the Falls experience, choose one of the following writing types and write a brief sample.

#### Journals

You have read the journal that Ida and Bourne's father kept for them. You may want to keep your own journal of what you do and your thoughts about what is happening in your life. You can start by writing a descriptive "journal entry" about a place you have visited. Your teacher may ask you to write in your Journey to the Falls journal after the trip.

#### Postcards

Make a postcard out of an index card and mail it to a friend or family member. On one side draw a picture. On the other side write a message on the left half of the card. Put the address of the person you are writing to on the right side. Don't forget a stamp!



M. F. wrote:

"Many thanks for the very pretty postal. Why don't you give me some more substantial news- a letter for instance?"



#### Postcards

Postcards are meant for a short note. One side usually has a pretty picture.

The other side is divided into two halves. The left hand half is for the message.

The right hand half is for the address and stamp.



## A Visit to a Minneapolis Sawmill

### Part 1B: Writing (journals, postcards, letters, newspapers)

#### Letters

Write a friend or family member a letter describing your day while on Journey to the Falls. Ask an adult how to properly address an envelope if you don't know how. You will need a stamp to mail your letter.

Horace Glenn worked as a sawyer in the pine forests of northern Minnesota in 1901. Here is part of a letter he wrote to his parents:

"... I believe I enjoy the work better than any I ever did before. Sawing to my notion is the best job in the woods, the time passes quickly, and although it is very cold, from zero to 30 below so far, you don't notice it so much in the timber and what I eat at home would be scarcely a light lunch for me here. There is no boss over you while you work, you go into the woods and saw all day and give in your logs at night. We saw from 80 to 110 according to the size of the timber.... It is steady but if you know how to saw and have a good partner it is not hard."

#### Newspapers

Newspapers tell the people what is happening in their community and in other places. Read this exciting account of a Minneapolis lumberyard fire in 1920.



#### Flames Sweep Lumber Yard

"Thousands Watch Fierce Blaze Which Destroys Timber Piles, Burns Sheds, Ties Up Traffic and Threatens Nearby Homes, While Occupants Rush Furniture into Street.

"Swept in a sea of flames, lumber yards of the Northland Pine Lumber company at Thirty-second avenue north and Second street last night, covering 25 acres, were destroyed by fire with an estimated loss that will exceed \$500,000."

"Embers scattered over a large section of the city and scorched roofs of several homes. Although declared under control at 10 p.m., 7,000,000 feet of lumber and 5,000,000 shingles still were burning, lighting up that section of the city."

Minneapolis Morning Tribune, August 25, 1920

Now, using your Journey to the Falls trip experience, write a newspaper article describing your day. Remember- newspaper articles contain facts rather than opinions.